

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SOCIALIST PARTY PROGRAM

1. SOCIALIST PARTY'S ELECTORAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCED IN APRIL 3 NEWS-PAPERS, ENTITLED "LOBERTY, SOCIALISM, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE," CAN BE SUMMED UP IN ONE WORD: LIBERTY. IN RELATIVELY SHORT DOCUMENT, WORDS SUCH AS "LIBERTY," "FREE," AND "DEMOCRACY" INVOKED MINIMUM OF FIFTY TIMES. COMPLEMENTING THESE TERMS ARE REFERENCES TO "DICTATORSHIP," WHICH PROGRAM CLEARLY WARNS IS NOT JUST A HERITAGE OF THE PAST BUT ALSO A DANGER VERY NEAR AT HAND.

2. MAJOR THEMES:

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(A) PROGRAM PAYS RITUAL TRIBUTE TO ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM), IN TERMS EMPHASIZING ORIGINALITY OF A PORTUGUESE ROAD TO SOCIALISM. HEART OF AFM'S PROGRAM AND OF APRIL 25 REVOLUTION IS RETURNING POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

(B) MILITARY INSTITUTIONS MUST BE SUBORDINATE TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITY; THE AFM'S ROLE DURING TRANSITION PERIOD MUST BE THAT OF ASSURING PORTUGUESE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO ACHIEVE SOCIALISM DEMOCRATICALLY.

(C) THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS HAS BEEN RADICALIZED, RESULTING IN THE (NECESSARY) "DECAPITATION" OF PORTUGUESE CAPITALISM. SINCE THE CONDITIONS DO NOT EXIST FOR PORTUGUESE CAPITALISM'S RECUPERATION, THE TASK AT HAND FOR PORTUGUESE WORKERS AND PEOPLE IS CONSTRUCTING A SOCIALIST SOCIETY AND NOT AN ANTI-MONOPOLIST FIGHT. A SOCIALIST SOCIETY IS ONE IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE FREE.

(D) PORTUGUESE SOCIALISM CANNOT BE BASED ON SOCIAL DISINTEGRATION, ON ANARCHIC INITIATIVES OF "POPULAR MASSES MORE OR LESS ORCHESTRATED;" SOCIALISM IN LIBERTY INVOLVES MORE THAN JUST LIBERATION FROM CAPITALISM, IT MEANS AVOIDING STATE CAPITALISM SUPPORTED BY MONOLITHIC AND TOTALITARIAN POLITICAL POWER, WHETHER THAT POWER SERVES A DOMINATING MILITARY CASTE OR A PARTY BUREAUCRACY.

(E) THE PATH TO STATE CAPITALISM, IF FOLLOWED, WILL LEAD IN A SHORT TIME TO A GENERAL DISORGANIZATION OF THE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS, REINFORCED BY AN INEVITABLE REDUCTION IN TOURISM AND EMIGRANT REMITTANCES. PORTUGUESE WORKERS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO OFFER THEM A SOCIALISM OF MISERY.

(F) IN FACE OF DENUNCIATIONS OF "BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY," PS DOES NOT ACCEPT IDEA THAT SUCH FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AS FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, OF ASSOCIATION, OF THE PRESS, OF ACCESS TO CULTURE AND ARTISTIC CREATIVITY, OF BEING DEFENDED BY A LAWYER, OF NOT BEING DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE, AND OF GOING ON STRIKE ARE "BOURGEOIS"; THESE RIGHTS ARE TOO PRECIOUS NOT TO BE ENJOYED BY ALL THE PEOPLE.

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(G) FOREIGN POLICY PLANK CALLS FOR GRADUAL DISENGAGEMENT FROM EXISTING MILITARY BLOCS, LEADING TO A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT, NOT FORGETTING THAT PORTUGAL IS A EUROPEAN COUNTRY, BUT USING PORTUGAL'S POSITION AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA.

3. EMBASSY POUCHING FULL TEXT TO DEPARTMENT.

4. COMMENT: PS PROGRAM IS NOTABLE FOR ITS EMPHASIS ON THE

SOCIALISM-IN-LIBERTY THEME, ITS MODERATE ECONOMIC PROGRAM,
AND ITS IMPLICIT ATTACK ON THE COMMUNISTS. PS PROGRAM DOWN-
PLAYS IDEOLOGY AND IS DESIGNED TO PICK UP VOTES FROM THE
QUIET BUT NUMERICALLY IMPORTANT PORTUGUESE CENTER.
PS, ALTHOUGH DISORGANIZED AND BADLY MANAGED, DOES APPEAR TO
HAVE BETTER DEVELOPED VOTE-GETTING INSTINCTS THAN ITS RIVALS.

5. UNFORTUNATELY, PS' GRUDGING ACCEPTANCE OF AFM IN ITS PROGRAM
AND ITS EFFORT TO REDUCE RATHER THAN BOOST (AS DOES THE PCP AND
MDP) AFM ROLE IS NOT GOING TO GO DOWN WELL WITH THE GROUP THAT
COMMANDS THE PRINCIPAL POWER CENTER IN PORTUGAL TODAY.
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